

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /077 W
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P 051700Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 177
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMCONSUL BUKAVU

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 5773

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS: PINS, CG
SUBJECT: MUTSHATSHA RETAKEN BY GOZ FORCES JUNE 3.

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS ZAIRIAN UNITS MADE
UP OF STUDENTS FROM TWO OF THE ARMY'S OFFICER SCHOOLS RETOOK
MUTSHATSHA ON JUNE 3. END SUMMARY.

2. ZAIRIAN PRESS REPORTS STATE THAT MUTSHATSHA WAS RETAKEN
JUNE 3 BY TWO ZAIRIAN ARMY (FAZ) COMPANIES MADE UP OF 350
STUDENTS FROM THE ECOLE DE FORMATION D'OFFICIERS (OFFICERS
CANDIDATE SCHOOL), COMMANDED BY STUDENTS FROM THE CENTRE
SUPERIEUR MILITAIRE (PROFESSIONAL STAFF SCHOOL FOR
LIEUTENANTS TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL). WHILE THESE REPORTS
SPOKE OF "SERIOUS CLASHES" WITH REBEL FORCES, THE ATTACKERS
SUFFERED ONLY ONE KILLED, THREE WOUNDED., REBEL LOSSES UNKNOWN.
ATTACK WAS SUPPOSEDLY ORDERED BY MOBUTU AFTER REBELS ALLEGEDLY
KILLED THEIR EUROPEAN HOSTAGES ELIMINATING THE LAST CHECK ON
AN ALL-OUT FAZ ATTACK. REBELS REPORTEDLY RETREATED TOWARDS
ANGOLA VIA MWINILUNGA, ZAMBIA.

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3. WHILE FAZ ABANDONED MUTSHATSHA AS PART OF A REGROUPING
EARLY DURING THE MID-MAY FIGHTING, EMBASSY HAS NO NON-GOZ
SUPPLIED INFORMATION REGARDING PRESENCE OF REBEL FORCES THERE OR
ANY RESISTANCE SUCH FORCES MAY HAVE OFFERED. NOR DOES EXBASSY
HAVE CONFIRMATION THAT ANY EUROPEAN HOSTAGES WERE TAKEN OR
KILLED.

4. THE USE OF FAZ MILITARY STUDENTS IN COMBAT IS NOT UNPRECEDENTED. DURING 1977 SHABA WAR, SECOND YEAR STUDENTS FROM THE ECOLE DE FORMATION D'OFFICIERS WERE SENT INTO THE FIELD AS A LINE COMPANY. THESE STUDENTS WERE THEN AUTOMATICALLY GRADUATED AFTER THE WAR. THIS YEAR BOT FIRST AND SECOND YEAR STUDENTS WERE SENT TO SHABA AS A MINI-BATTALION COMMANDED BY CMS STUDENTS. PRESUMABLY THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS WILL AGAIN BE AUTOMATICALLY GRADUATED WHILE THESFIRST YEAR STUDENTS RETURN TO COMPLETE THEIR TWO YEAR COURSE.

5. A MAJOR REASON FOR USING THESE STUDENTS (WHO REPRESENT THE BEST TRAINED AND MOTIVATED GROUP WITHIN THE ZAIRIAN MILITARY) IN THIS OPERATION WAS TO ENSURE THE SUCCESSFUL RECAPTURE OF MUTSHATSHA. PRESS REPORTS OF THIS ATTACK HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS CARRIED OUT ENTIRELY BY FAZ TROOPS WITH NO OUTSIDE HELP, THUS PROVIDING A BOOST FOR BATTERED FAZ MORAL.
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